

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INCREASED SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY SCIENCE
PROGRAM FOR EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 6594

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN EMBASSY VIEW THAT NSF SHOULD EXPAND
APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES TO EXTENT ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE
AVAILABLE TO IT AND THAT THIS WOULD ALSO APPLY TO OTHER
SCIENCE AGENCIES.

2. EVEN WITH RELAXATION OF CONSTRAINTS AS THEY HAVE BEEN
APPLIED TO TOTAL PROGRAM MAGNITUDE IN PRIOR YEARS AND
WHICH WERE BASED ON EMBASSY-SUGGESTED OVERALL FUNDING
LEVELS, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE GRADUAL AT BEST INCREASE IN
PROGRAM SIZE BECAUSE OF TIGHT AGENCIES' BUDGETS. IN
COMPILING PROJECTED FY 1976 PLAN, DEPARTMENT ASKED
AGENCIES TO SUBMIT PLANS BASED ON REASONABLE EXPECTATION
OF IMPLEMENTATION, AND SUBMISSION(STATE A-4240) IS AS SUCH.

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WE WISH TO AVOID SHORTFALL IN FULFILLMENT TO EXTENT

POSSIBLE. EXPECTATIONS FOR AGENCIES OF COURSE STILL
DEPENDENT ON NUMBER OF THINGS, INCLUDING FOR SOME
FORTHCOMING CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION ACTIONS FOR FY 1976.

3. SINCE FY 1976 IS A YEAR OF TRANSITION BETWEEN FORMER

PERIOD WHICH REQUIRED PROGRAM CONSTRAINT AND PRESENT ERA
LOOKING TO STRENGTHENED PROGRAM, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR JWG
INITIATIVES, IT IS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO PROVIDE AGENCIES
WITH GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR THEIR PLANNING TOWARDS FY 1977
AND BEYOND. MUCH OF THE GROUNDWORK FOR THAT PERIOD WILL
BE UNDERWAY THIS YEAR AS AGENCIES EXPLORE WITH
COUNTERPARTS FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND PLAN
BUDGETS.

4. RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO DEAL IN ANY SPECIFIC
FUNDING LEVELS OR ALLOCATIONS TO BE SUGGESTED TO AGENCIES,
YARDSTICKS WHICH ARE IMPRECISE AND DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET
AND COORDINATE, WE WOULD PROPOSE, IF EMBASSY AGREES, TO
INDICATE TO AGENCIES THAT THE CONSTRAINTS FORMERLY
REQUESTED OF THEM NEED NO LONGER APPLY AND THAT THEIR
ACTIVITIES BE GUIDED BY NORMAL PROGRAMMING FACTORS WITH
ATTENTION TO BROADENING BASE AND OF COURSE JWG INTERESTS.
AS NOTED ABOVE WE DO NOT THINK THERE IS DANGER OF PROGRAM
GETTING TOO LARGE TOO FAST. WE AND EMBASSY WILL HAVE
OPPORTUNITY TO JUDGE THIS UNLIKELY EVENT AS WE COMPILE
AND SUBMIT PROJECTED ANNUAL PLANS.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER EMBASSY VIEWS ON ABOVE FOR
GUIDANCE OF AGENCIES AND COORDINATION BY DEPARTMENT. INGERSOLL

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